## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1-14. (Cancelled)
- 15. (Previously presented) A compounds with a general formula (I)

in which

$$R = X \begin{bmatrix} (CH_2)n & Y & N & Y' \\ N & R'' & R'' & Z & R''' \end{bmatrix} Z'$$

m is the number 0 or 1;

Z and Z' are an integer ranging from 0 to 2 when they are different or are an integer ranging from 1 to 2 when they are the same;

Y and Y', which can be the same or different, are  $(CH_2)_{n1}$ ;  $(CH_2)_{n2}$ -CH[NR<sup>VII</sup>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n4</sub>-NHR<sup>I</sup>]-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n3</sub>; CH<sub>2</sub>-CH[CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>- or  $(CH_2)_{n2}$ -N[(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n4</sub>-NHR<sup>IV</sup>]-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n3</sub>;

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Y" is selected from the group consisting of H; cycloalkyl C3-C7; (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n5</sub>-N[CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>N-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n6</sub>NHR<sup>V</sup>; (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n7</sub> CH[CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>]<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>V</sup>;

X is O, or is a simple bond;

n-n7, which can be the same or different, are an integer ranging from 0 to 5;

 $R^{I}$ ,  $R^{III}$ ,  $R^{III}$ ,  $R^{IV}$ , and  $R^{V}$ , which can be the same or different, are a protective group for the nitrogen to which they are bound;  $CO_2R^{VI}$ ;  $CO_2CH_2Ar$ ;  $CO_2(9$ -fluorenylmethyl);  $(CH_2)_{n5}$ -NHCO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>VI</sup>;  $CH_2Ar$ ; COAr;  $(CH_2)_{n5}$ -NHCO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ar;  $(CH_2)_{n5}$ -NHCO<sub>2</sub>-(9-fluorenylmethyl).  $R^{VI}$  is a straight or branched  $(C_1-C_6)$  alkyl;

 $R^{VII}$  is H or  $R^{I}$ - $R^{V}$ ;

Ar is a C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>12</sub> aromatic residue, phenyl, optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from: halogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro, -NR<sup>VIII</sup>R<sup>IX</sup>, where R<sup>VIII</sup> and R<sup>IX</sup>, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl, or Ar is a heterocyclic group, said heterocyclic group containing at least one heteroatom selected from a nitrogen atom, optionally substituted with a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub>) alkyl group, and/or oxygen and/or sulphur; said heterocycle can be substituted with one or more groups selected from halogen, hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy, phenyl, cyano, nitro,

-NR<sup>VIII</sup>R<sup>IX</sup>, where R<sup>VIII</sup> and R<sup>IX</sup>, which can be the same or different, are hydrogen, straight or branched ( $C_1$ - $C_5$ ) alkyl, the N1-oxides, racemic mixtures, their individua enantiomers, their individual diastereoisomers, the E and Z forms, their mixtures, and pharmaceutically acceptable salts.

16. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, in which the protective groups are bulky groups of a lipophilic nature.

- 17. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, in which the protective groups are selected from the group consisting of: CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>VI</sup>; CO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ar; CO<sub>2</sub>-(9-fluorenylmethyl); (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n5</sub>-NH CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>VI</sup>; (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n5</sub>-NHCO<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>Ar; (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n5</sub>-NHCO<sub>2</sub>-(9-fluorenylmethyl), in which R<sup>VI</sup> is as defined above.
- 18. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, in which the protective groups are selected from the group consisting of tert-butoxycarbonyl; benzyloxycarbonyl; 9-fluorenylmethyloxycarbonyl.
- 19. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, in which m is 0.
- 20. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 19, selected from the group consisting of:

tert-butylester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tert-butoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-(3-tert-butoxycarbonylaminopropyl)-carbamic acid;

tert-butylester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid; and

tert-butylester of 20S-[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-butyl]-carbamic acid;

20S-7-[3-(N-tert-butoxycarbonylamino)propoxyimino-methyl]-camptothecin.

benzyl ester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-camptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-benzyloxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid.

- 21. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 15, in which m is 1.
- 22. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 21, selected from the group consisting of:

tert-butylester of 20RS-(4-{[3-(7-homocamptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-amino}-butyl)-(3-tert-butoxycarbonylaminopropyl)-carbamic acid;

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tert-butylester of 20RS-(4-{[3-(7-homocampto-thecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-tertbutoxycarbonyl-

amino}-butyl)-carbamic acid; and

tert-butylester of 20RS-[3-(7-homocamptothecinylidene-amino)-butyl] carbamicacid;

20R,S-7-[3-(N-tert-butoxycarbonylamino)propoxyimino-methyl]-Homocamptothecin.

benzyl ester of 20S-(4-{[3-(7-homocamptothecinylidene-amino)-propyl]-benzyloxycarbonylamino}-butyl)-carbamic acid.

- 23. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition containing at least one compound according to claim 15 as the active ingredient in admixture with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle and/or excipient.
- 24. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting topoisomerase comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a compound of claims 15.
- 25. (Previously presented) A method of treating cancer comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a compound of claims 15.
- 26. (Previously presented) A method of combating parasites comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a compound of claims 15.
- 27. (Currently amended) A method of treating a virus <u>disease</u> comprising administering to a subject in the need of the same an effective amount of a compound of claims 15.
- 28. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein said cancer is lung cancer, non-microcytoma lung cancer, colorectal cancer, gastric cancer, prostate cancer or glioma.
- 29. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein said cancer is non-microcytoma lung cancer or gastric cancer.